

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4745

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 6346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS: SPC MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20

REFS: A. USNATO 6313 DTG 191814Z NOV 75

B. MBFR VIENNA 544 DTG 181815Z NOV 75

C. USNATO 5618 DTG 161034Z OCT 75

1. AT NOVEMBER 20 SPC MEETING,US AND UK RESTED ON EXISTING POSITIONS ON THE TACTICS OF EQUIPMENT LIMITATINS. THE ONLY NEW IDEA WAS THAT STATED BY NETHERLAD REP (MEESMAN) ON A PERSONAL BASIS, IE, THAT THE GUIDANCE PROVIDE THAT IF HE SITUATION FORESEEN BY THE UK ARISES, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL NOT GIVE AN INSTRUCTED RESPONSE IN THE ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ON THE ALLIED POSITION ON US/SOVIET EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, THE AHG WOULD REFER THE MATTER BACK TO THE NAC FOR DECISION ON WHETHER TO GIVE THE OTHER SIDE  
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SUCH INFORMATION.

2. COMMENT: WE NOTED IN REF A, PARA 4, THAT SOME OF THE ALLIES WILL OPPOSE THE CONDITION IN THE FIRST PART OF SEN-

TENCE D OF THE VIENNA TEXT (PARA 3,REF B) THAT THE AHG MUST MAKE A JUDGEMENT THAT IT WOULD HELP OBTAIN AN INSTRUCTED EASTERN RESPONSE BEFORE THE AHG COULD GIVE THE FINAL NEGATIVE ANSWER TO EASTERN QUESTIONS N NON US EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE US BE PREPARED IF NECESSARY DROP THAT CONDITION. UPON REFLECTION, WE SEE SO LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE ALLIES WILL ACCEPT THIS CONDITION THAT IT MIGHT ONLY DELAY MATTERS FOR THE US TO PROPOSE IT WITH RESPECT TO NON US ALLIED EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. WE WOLD SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT IF THE GENERAL APPROACH RECOMMENDED BY VIENNA IS ACCEPTED BY WASHINGTON, AND WE SUPPORT THIS GENERAL APPROACH, THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ELIMINATE THE LEAD IN TO PARA D IN VIENNA TEXT AND TO MOVE THE SUBSTANCE OF SUB PARAS I, II AND III OF PARA D INTO THE PRESENT PARA 10 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (TEXT IN REF C), WITH THE FRG PHRASE AUTHORIZING USE OF PARA 10 AT ANY POINT AFTER THE POINTS IN PARA 5 HAVE BEEN MADE. PAR 10 COULD THEN BE MOVED UP TO BECOME PARA 5 (BIS).

3. PARA 10 (OR PAR 5 (BIS) WOULD THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

" IF AT ANY POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER THE POINTS IN PARA 5 ABOVE HAVE BEEN MADE, THE EAST ASKS FOR LIMITATIONS ON ALLIED NON US EQUIPMENTS, WHETHER GROUND, AIR OR NUCLEAR, THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD ANSWER THAT THE OFFER TO REDUCE CERTAIN US ARMAMENTS INCLUDES IMPLICITLY A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS LIMITATIONS ON THESE TYPES OF ARMAMENTS. THEY SHOULD ADD THAT LIMITATIONS ON NON US ALLIED EQUIPMENT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST: THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE LIMITATIONS ON NON US ALLIES WOULD BE THOSE RESULTING IN PRACTICE FROM COLLECTIVE LIMITS ON ALLIED AIR AND GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE AREA. THE ALLIED NEGOTIATORS SHOULD DECLINE TO GO ANY FURTHER IN DISCUSSION OF LIMITATIONS UNTIL AFTER AN INITIAL INSTRUCTED RESPONSE IN THE WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSAL."

4. THE ABOVE DRAFT ELIMINATES THE REFERENCE TO NON US ALLIED EQUIPMENT REDUCTIONS FROM THE VIENNA TEXT. IT ALSO REINTRODUCES THE US PHRASE ON MANPOWER LIMITATIONS.

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THIS REFERENCE TO MANPOWER LIMITATIONS IS PROBABLY ESSENTIAL TO BELGIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE TEXT.

5. VIENNA'S TEXT AS SUPPLEMENTED BY THE ABOVE DRAFT, WHILE IT WOULD PROBABLY PRODUCE ALLIED AGREEMENT ON THE TACTICS OF NON US ALLIED EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, WOULD PROBABLY NOT PRODUCE AGREEMENT WITH THE UK ON HOW TO HANDLE US/SOVIET EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER AS A LAST RESORT ADDING TO THE END OF THE NEW PARA 5 (BIS) IN PAR 3 ABOVE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:  
"IF HOWEVER THE AHG BECOMES CONVINCED THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL NOT PROVIDE AN INITIAL INSTRUCTED RESPONSE WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION ON US/SOVIET EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, THE AHG

SHOULD REFER THE MATTER BACK TO THE COUNCIL. THE ALLIES  
AGREE THAT IN THIS EVENTUALITY THEY WOULD GIVE EXPEDITIOUS  
CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZING THE AHG TO MAKE THE POINTS IN  
PARA 6 BELOW."

6. NEXT SPC DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE WILL BE MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 24. BRUCE

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SECDEF INFO MBFR VIENNA  
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